

Beyond Brains: A Case for the Soul

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Introduction

1. Be willing to entertain new ideas that undermine the claim that the physical world is all we know to exist.
2. The law of identity
 - I. Consciousness is not Physical
 - A. Waking up from surgery: sensations, thoughts, beliefs, desires and acts of free will
 - B. Conscious states have features no physical, e.g., brain, states do: what-it-is-like, intentionality (ofness, directedness towards an object), semantic meaning, alethic properties, lack geometrical size/shape, private access, entail a subject (e.g., thoughts have thinkers)
 - II. The soul/self/ego/I
 - A. Definition: The soul is an immaterial substance/thing that has and unifies consciousness and animates the body
 - B. The irrelevance of neuroscience regarding the nature/reality of consciousness and the soul.
 1. Empirically Equivalent Theories and Underdetermination of Theory by Data
 2. Mirror neurons and feelings of empathy
 - a. Physicalism
 - b. Mere property dualism
 - c. Substance dualism
 - C. 3 Arguments for the Soul's Reality
 1. Sameness of the person through change in body parts
 2. The mere possibility of disembodied existence
 3. Commonsense free will and the agent who has it

Bibliography

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- Swinburne, Richard. *Minds, Brains and Free Will* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).